Canada Completes Eerie "Haunted" Series

On September 8 Canada Post issued its third and final set in a three-year Haunted Canada series that brings regionally renowned ghost stories to a nationwide Canadian audience as well as collectors around the world. The five stamps are employ otherworldly designs in keeping with these eerie tales:

• The Bell Island Hag—Bell Island, Newfoundland and Labrador. The spirit, it is said, dwells in the marshes near Dobbin's Garden and appears to a lone person, overpowering him or her with her stench. As she covers her victim with her cowl, she always hisses the same words: "No one came to help me when I died in that swamp. No one will help you. Now taste what I tasted and smell what I smelled as my life was taken from me." The victim is found hours later, unconscious and reeking of death.

• The Dungarvon Whooper—Renous, New Brunswick. Lumberjacks returned from work one day to discover their young cook dead and his money belt missing—apparently the work of the camp boss. The cook was quickly buried as a snowstorm blew in, and in the night, terrifying whoops and wails issued from his shallow grave. The lumberjacks fled in terror, never to return. To this day, Miramichi residents claim to hear the cook's mournful cries, despite the efforts of a priest to quiet the grave years after the suspected murder.

• The Lady in White —Montmorency Falls, Quebec. Hidden in the roar of Montmorency Falls are the cries of La Dame blanche (the Lady in White) calling out for her lost love. It was at the falls that Mathilde Robin's fiancé, Louis Tessier, had courted her. Little did the betrothed couple know that Louis was soon to perish in battle during the Seven Years' War. Overwhelmed with grief at the news of this death, Mathilde donned her wedding gown and tossed herself into the raging cataract.

• The Phantom Bell Ringers of the Kirk of St. James—Charlottetown. In the early morning of October 7, 1853, a sea captain was mystified to hear what sounded like the clanging of a ship's bell coming from the town center. He made his way to the Kirk of St. James, where he and the church keeper spied four women, one peering down from the belfry. The two men pursued the women up to the tower but found nothing except the bell, still vibrating. Later that day, the Fairy Queen mail steamer sank in stormy seas, with seven lives lost, including four women—three were members of the congregation of the Kirk of St. James.

• The Elgin and Winter Garden Theatre Centre—Toronto Staff and patrons have witnessed all manner of apparitions and otherworldly events in the restored Theatre Centre. A woman dressed in Edwardian dress has reportedly appeared in the lobby, while the hand-operated elevators have been seen stopping of their own accord at various floors. And the seats in the Winter Garden Theatre have flipped down and back up, as if unseen audience members had sat down and got up again. Or so they say.

The stamps are available in booklets of 10, a souvenir sheet (shown) and an uncut press sheet of six souvenir sheets. For these as well as the previous sets in this series, go to https://www.canadapost.ca/shop/stamps/2016-stamps.